



Adapted from USGS Tyler, Texas. Original Scale 1: 250,000.

Figure 2. Map Location of Big Cypress Creek/Bayou



Figure 3. Picture of Big Cypress Creek/Bayou

Big Cypress Creek/Bayou

Big Cypress Creek begins in the southeastern part of Hopkins County and flows southeasterly about 72 miles into Caddo Lake and ultimately the Red River (TPWD, 1998a). The creek is impounded several times en route to Caddo Lake, forming Lake Cypress Springs, Lake Bob Sandlin, and Lake O' the Pines. Big Cypress Creek becomes Big Cypress Bayou near the city of Jefferson, between Lake O' the Pines and Caddo Lake. Big Cypress Bayou is wide and deep and always has adequate water for recreational usage, in contrast to upper reaches of the creek which are often narrow and contain numerous logjams, where recreational usage is dependent upon releases from Ferrell's Bridge Dam (Belisle and Josselet, 1974). The bayou is within the target recovery area set by TPWD for the state threatened paddlefish which require highly specific feeding and spawning habitat (Pitman, 1992). The USFWS (1985) has identified a project area of 5,350 acres east of Jefferson that contains priority bottomland hardwood forest dominated by cypress-tupelo swamps. The Upper Caddo Lake area has stable water levels for long periods of time and is also dominated by cypress swamps, but other bottomlands containing willow, water, and overcup oak and sweetgum are present. This area has high species value for white-tail deer, furbearers, squirrels, turkeys, raptors, colonial waterbirds, and other migratory birds, as well as the American alligator (USFWS, 1985). The candidate segment is from a point 7.6 miles downstream of SH 43 in Marion/Harrison County upstream to Ferrell's Bridge Dam in Marion County (TNRCC stream segment 0402).

- (1) Biological Function- priority bottomland hardwood habitat displays significant overall habitat value (USFWS, 1985).
- (2) Hydrologic Function- bottomland hardwood forest and associated wetlands provide valuable hydrologic function relating to water quality.
- (3) Riparian Conservation Area- fringed by Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area.
- (4) High Water Quality/Exceptional Aquatic Life/High Aesthetic Value- high (as opposed to exceptional) aquatic life use (TNRCC, 1995).
- (5) Threatened or Endangered Species/Unique Communities- presence of state threatened paddlefish (Bauer et al., 1991).